BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC STATS Infoline

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highlights

a weekly digest of recently released British Columbia statistics

The Economy

- **Exports of BC products fell 2.4% *(seasonally adjusted)* between March and April.** Shipments to the US, BC's biggest market, were down 1.1%, while exports to other countries were off 4.8%. Forest product exports edged up 1.5% in March, as both US (+0.6%) and overseas (+3.0%) markets for BC forest products improved. However, export markets for other goods softened. The value of mineral product exports was down 26.0%, while international shipments of agriculture, food and fish products fell 1.4% and exports of other goods decreased 0.9%. The drop in mineral product exports reflected lower shipments overseas (-44.6%); exports to the US were up slightly (+1.8%) in April. *Source: BC STATS*

- **Receipts at food service establishments and drinking places in the province were 6.5% higher this April than in the same month of 1999.** Food service receipts continued to improve, advancing for the third straight month (+8.1%) after slumping during most of 1999. However, drinking places have not yet turned the corner. Their receipts were down 8.8%, marking the 14th time in the last 15 months that they have fallen.
Source: Statistics Canada

WCB Claims

- **During 1999, there were 178,618 claims reported to the British Columbia Workers' Compensation Branch, a 0.8% decrease from the previous year, when 179,582 claims were reported.** A total of 179 fatalities were reported to the board. Eighty-nine were due to workplace injuries that occurred during the year. Another 86 deaths were caused by occupational diseases, including 4 cases of silicosis. Four deaths last year were the result of accidents or injuries that occurred prior to 1999. Of the 179 claims, 17 were disallowed or rejected, and 56 were awaiting adjudication as of February 18, 2000. Between 1990 and 1999, 1,453 fatal claims were accepted by the WCB. *Source: WCB Annual Report*

Public Sector Employment

- **There were 354,885 people working in BC's public sector during the first quarter of this year.** Total employment was up 0.5%, reflecting job growth in most parts of the public sector. There were more people working for the provincial (+3.5%) government, crown corporations (+1.7%), health care and social service institutions (+0.7%), municipal school boards (+0.5%) and the federal (+0.6%) government. Employment at universities and colleges was flat, while local governments (-4.0%) continued to pare down the size of their workforce.

  Canadian public sector employment also rose in the first quarter (+0.7%) reflecting job growth more or less across the board. School boards (-1.0%) and universities and colleges (-0.7%) were the only exceptions, although the military, which is included in the federal government figures, continued to downsize. The number of people working in the military fell 3.4% in the first quarter. Among the regions, public sector employment was up in every province except Nova Scotia (-1.7%), Quebec (-0.5%) and New Brunswick (-0.2%). *Source: SC, Public Institutions Division*

- **Relative to its population, BC's public sector is among the smallest in the country, with 87.9 workers for every 1,000 residents of the province.** Ontario (84.4) was the only province with a leaner public sector in the first quarter. In Alberta, the ratio was 89.3. Employment to population ratios in the rest of the country were all above the national average of 93.0 workers per 1,000 peo-

Report **BC Teachers–Are we facing a major shortage?**

Did you know...
Canadians owe just under $600 billion on residential mortgages and consumer credit. That's $19,550 per person. The total personal debt of all households in the country exceeds the national debt, which is currently $562 billion, or $18,320 per capita.

ple. Manitoba (117.8) was the province with the highest ratio. *Source: BC STATS*

Fair Market Value of New Homes

- **The average fair market value of new (or substantially renovated) homes built in BC during 1998 was $194,264.** BC and Ontario ($189,534) were the only provinces where new homes were typically priced at about $200,000. Fair market values for new homes in other regions varied from $97,933 in New Brunswick to $163,841 in Alberta. The Canadian average was $167,121.During the period from 1993 to 1998, the cost of new homes built in BC rose 5.8%–about half the rate of increase for the country as a whole (+11.7%). *Source: SC, Catalogue 64-507*

Firearms

- **Data from 94 police departments indicate the percentage of violent crimes with a firearm present declined from 6.5% in 1994 to 4.8% in 1998.** Violent incidents are more likely to involve the use of knives (7.0%) or clubs and blunt instruments (6.2%) than firearms.

  Firearms were present in 34% of homicide incidents, 29% of attempted murders, 10% of aggravated assaults and 9% of assaults with a weapon. Eighteen percent of all robberies in 1998 were committed with a firearm. This compares to 25% ten years ago and 37% two decades ago.
  Source: SC, Juristat, Catalogue 85-002, Vol 20 No 4

Homicide Victims

- **During the twenty year period from 1979 to 1998, 12,764 people were murdered in Canada.** Most of them were killed by people they knew. Thirty-nine percent died at the hands of acquaintances, while nearly a third (30%) were killed by family members. Twelve percent of homicides were committed by strangers.

  Family members killed more than half (55%) of the women and girls who were murdered. Two out of every three females who were killed by a family member died at the hands of their husbands. Another 18% were killed by their parents. Men and boys were most likely to be killed by acquaintances (44%). When family members were involved, men were as likely to be the victims of their parents (28%) as their wives (26%).
  Source: SC, Juristat, Catalogue 85-002, Vol 20 No 4

The Nation

- **Canada's service exports surpassed the $50 billion mark for the first time ever in 1999, with exports totalling $51.8 billion.** Exports of commercial services reached $26.2 billion, while other services brought $25.5 billion into the country. Tourism, including both business and leisure travel, was the most important service export, injecting $16.9 billion into the Canadian economy. Canada's travel deficit dropped to a 12 year low as spending by overseas visitors to Canada was boosted. Insurance ($3.9 billion) and tooling ($3.6 billion) were the biggest commercial service exports, followed by architectural, engineering and technical services ($3.4 billion); R&D ($2.9 billion); management ($2.4 billion); and communications ($2.0 billion). Exports of computer and information ($1.6 billion) and audio-visual ($1.4 billion) services were also significant. In addition, Canadians received $1.7 from royalties and licence fees.
  Source: SC, Catalogue 67-203-XIB

- **Canada's economy was stagnant in April, with real GDP at factor cost unchanged from the previous month.** GDP in the goods-producing industries edged down 0.2% (seasonally adjusted). Manufacturing output stalled, falling 0.9% as production at motor vehicle assembly plants dropped. At the same time, construction firms (-0.5%) were weighed down by a cement truck drivers' strike in Ontario. Fishing and trapping (-2.5%) and logging (-0.9%) activities also slowed between March and April. Utilities (+2.0%), mining (+1.7%) and agriculture (+0.4%) bucked the trend. The service sector was constrained by a widespread slowdown in April and as a result, its output was unchanged from March. Communications (+1.7%), business services (+0.9%) and education (+0.4%) were the only industries to make any gains. *Source: Statistics Canada*

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For data originating from Statistics Canada: data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the publication name or catalogue number.

June 30, 2000 *Infoline Report:*

Teachers in BC - Are we facing a major shortage?

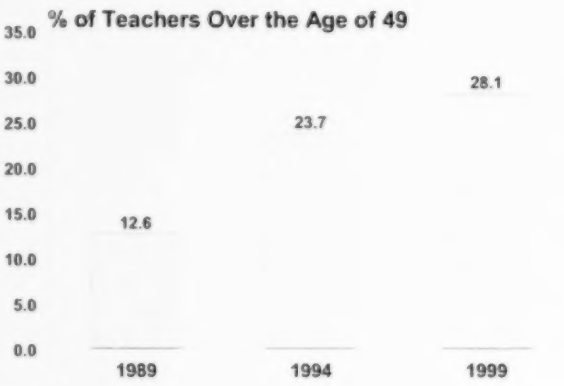
Contact: Anne Kittredge / (250) 387-0374

Originally published in April 2000 issue, *Earnings & Employment Trends*. Annual subscription: $60 + GST

From all accounts, the BC workforce will experience large levels of outflow in the next fifteen years due to retirement. In 1999, 34 per cent of the workforce were over the age of 44, most of whom will be retired by 2014. Elementary and secondary school teachers are older still, where 47 per cent of them are over the age of 44. This article will look at the age structure of teachers and its likely impact on the demand for new teachers over the next ten years.

Teachers in BC, on average, retire at the age of 58.7 years, according to a study done by the Centre for Education Statistics[1]. This means that we can expect that the number of teachers who are currently 50 years of age and over will not be teaching in ten years time[2]. The chart alongside shows that 28 per cent of all BC elementary and secondary teachers are currently 50 years of age and over. This translates into an annual average retirement rate of 2.8 per cent over the next ten years. The same chart illustrates how extreme that is compared to historical retirement rates. The age structure 10 years ago showed that over the 1990's, the average retirement rate would have been less than 1.3 per cent per year, which is less than one-half of what is expected in the next decade.

More than one in four existing teachers in BC will retire over the next ten



The impending retirement problem applies to both elementary and secondary teachers but the problem is more severe among secondary teachers. This appears to be the case right across Canada. Perhaps this is because more elementary teachers switch to secondary teachers part way through their career, at least more often than the other way around; or it may have something to do with the higher concentration of women in elementary teaching compared to secondary teaching. Women's lesser attachment to the workforce in their child rearing days may have provided more opportunities to hire younger teachers into elementary schools over the years. Whatever the reason, the numbers show that close to one in three BC secondary school teachers will retire in the next ten years compared to one in four elementary school teachers.

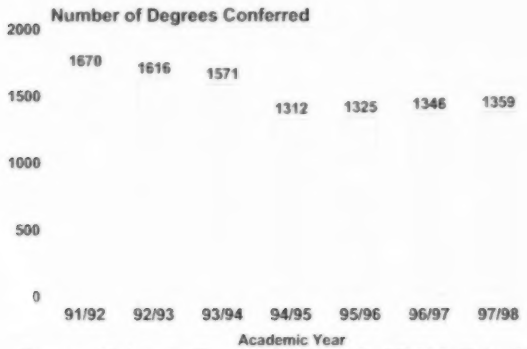
This is good news for young persons planning to be teachers. Recent years have been very difficult for new teachers with few

[1] *Published in Statistics Canada's Education Quarterly Review, 1997*

[2] *The retirement age of 58.7 years reflects the average so not all those in their early 50's will be retired as some will continue to work up to 65 years. However, balancing this out, there will be similar numbers of 45-49 year olds who will retire before the age of 58.7.*

opportunities to gain experience. Many have had to resort to either substitute teaching or accepting jobs in remote locations subject to recruitment problems. The universities have rightly been limiting the number of students accepted into the education faculties.

Graduates with a Bachelors of Education Degree from BC Universities.



Source: University Presidents' Council of British Columbia, Annual Reports

As the previous chart shows, up until the 1997/98 school year, the education system had not yet responded to the expected increased demand for teachers. Fortunately, the training of teachers can be done in one year if the student already has a bachelor's degree. In recent years there has been no shortage in the number of people with bachelor degrees wanting to get into BC education faculties. Therefore, it is likely the system will be able to respond fairly quickly if there appears to be a teacher shortage on the horizon.

However, there remains a major unknown – the extent to which other well paid disciplines will be able to lure bachelor students away from a teaching career. Labour shortages are expected to be fairly wide-spread, particularly within the highly skilled occupations. Those that pay the highest salaries will win out. Similarly, labour shortages for teachers in other provinces[3] could lure BC teachers out of province if the price is right. In the next decade, the BC education system may be forced to raise teachers' salaries to ensure existing teachers remain in BC as well as to attract new university graduates into the profession.

[3] *Teachers all across Canada are relatively old. However, BC teachers are older still – for example, 23 per cent of Alberta teachers and 26 per cent of Ontario teachers are over the age of 49 compared to 28 per cent for BC.*

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jan 1/00	% change on one year ago
BC	4,043.7	0.9
Canada	30,606.7	0.9
GDP and INCOME		
(BC - at market prices)	1998	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	110,948	-0.2
GDP *($ 1992 millions)*	99,708	0.2
GDP *($ 1992 per Capita)*	24,908	-0.8
Personal Disposable Income *($ 1992 per Capita)*	15,969	-1.6
TRADE ($ millions)		
Manufacturing Shipments (seas. adj.) Apr	3,309	10.3
Merchandise Exports (raw) Apr	2,559	9.0
Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) Apr	2,928	4.7
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		% change on
(all items - 1992=100)	May '00	one year ago
BC	112.8	1.5
Canada	113.0	2.4
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	May '00	one year ago
Labour Force - BC	2,095	1.4
Employed - BC	1,954	3.0
Unemployed - BC	142	-17.3
		May '99
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	6.8	8.3
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	6.6	7.9
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jun 28/00	Jun 30/99
Prime Business Rate	7.50	6.25
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	8.10	6.75
- 5 year	8.45	7.70
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jun 28/00	Jun 30/99
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $	1.4835	1.4720
US $ *(reciprocal of the closing rate)*	0.6763	0.6835
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	May '00	one year ago
BC	635.75	2.7
Canada	611.63	3.0

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bank-banque-canada.ca/english/wfsgen.htm

British Columbia High Tech Input Indicators, the 1990's

This companion to the recently released "Profile of the British Columbia High Technology Sector" contains forty-two indicators related to the development of the high technology sector. The indicators track the performance of the education, business, government, labour, and external sectors in supplying trained personnel, financing, information, etc. in support of high technology industries in the province. For the first time, these indicators have been assembled for comparison on a consistent basis across provinces, with Alberta, Ontario, and Quebec featured along with British Columbia in the report. The "Profile" report is available now at the BC Stats web site. "Indicators" will be released June 28th. Go to

http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/DATA/BUS_STAT/hi_tech.htm

[continued]

Released this week by BC STATS

- Business Indicators, June 2000
- Current Statistics, June 2000
- Earnings & Employment Trends, May 2000
- Exports, April 2000
- Immigration Highlights, First Quarter 2000

Next week

- No subscription releases

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